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LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 15–02

Rationalization of the Spring Holiday

Sponsored by William H. Daly

Whereas the final week of the Spring semester is now the first week of May to allow a Spring intersession,

Whereas the breaks in the Spring semester are governed currently by the ecclesiastic calendar, which varies according to a lunar calendar,

Whereas the Mardi Gras is accepted as the first two day holiday of the Spring semester,

Whereas, the second Spring Break is set to include the Easter holiday,

Whereas the date for Easter is set by the first Sunday after the Paschal Full moon, (the first full moon following the spring equinox) which can vary from March 25th to April 25th,

Whereas, in selected years, the Spring Break occurs in April, which limits the number of classes that can meet prior to the finals week,

Whereas a break late in the semester is not pedagogically advantageous,

Whereas a survey of fifteen peer institutions confirmed that all of them scheduled their Spring Breaks in March regardless of the Easter holiday,

Whereas, Good Friday is a state holiday, so the Easter holiday would be three days,

Therefore, the time set for the Spring Break should not be governed by the ecclesiastic calendar.

Therefore, the Spring Break should be set prior to March 31 to allow sufficient classes to properly complete the semester after the break.